

## **Beach Commission Minutes**

**Meeting of 11/08/2011**

**Attending: Bill Seiple, Dave Leys, Rian Wilkinson, John Ciglarski, Helen Flynn, Chris Semonelli, Tim Shaw. Tom O'Loughlin**

- 1. Bring meeting to order, 4:36 PM.**
- 2. Approved minutes of Oct. 11, 2011... No Changes.**
- 3. RKG Business Plan. Events Center/ Second Beach.. Town Council.**  
**The Town Council received the report from Lawrence Cranor, RKG Associates. He, briefly, reviewed the five monthly study, approved by the TC. RKG met with the BC and Economic Development over the summer and fall of 2011. RKG also examined all present event venues on Aquidneck Island, including, cost, availability etc.**

**Their main focus was on the financial feasibility of an Events Building at the proposed Second Beach Building. RKG reported that there is significant demand for moderate priced, water view facilities. However, RKG tried several scenarios but, there was no way that the events Bldg would be profitable. A combination of building cost, approximately \$3,000,000, and a short season- April-Oct, would result in estimated losses of, at least, \$100,000 per year.**

**He did recommend a low cost option. It would include the basic beach building concept with an expanded Events Deck. This deck would have a shade structure and would be ideal for town events, lobster boils, cook-outs, and possible rentals. He estimated that the cost would be, approximately, \$100,000... see, Alternate 2, page 27.**

**Several council members agreed that an events building, that lost money, was not acceptable. The town will continue to study the**

**finances concerning the proposed building, without the Events Deck.**

## **BEACH COMMISSION**

**Rian passed out the complete RFK Business Plan to the BC members. He also distributed CONCEPT drawings of the Building...see Alternate 1, page 27. This included the larger deck option, with a basic beach facility.**

**The Concept drawing did include all the BC recommendations, including more toilets, larger concession, efficient office, separate lifeguard rooms, etc. The drawing, also, included the “Campus Style” design favored by the BC and used on several new State of RI beach buildings.**

**Rian asked Tom O about the CRMC 25% restriction. Tom said this is, usually, negotiable. The town has a good relation with CRMC and he would recommend meetings and discussions, once the concept is approved by the Town Council. The DEM, a recreation agency, would, probably be in favor of a more efficient facility.**

**Councilman C. Semonelli said the next steps would include a TC financial study and resident input. The TC is, already, planning the town wide budget review, 2013, and that could include the beach proposal. If all goes well, bond information should be forwarded to the state by July 2012. Election- 11/2011.**

**A motion was made and was unanimously approved to forward a recommendation to Shawn Brown. The BC, unanimously, support RKG’s Alternative C, #2---The basic beach pavilion with expanded**

**4. Project list 2012.**

- **Ramp Safety, Beach Access.** This is a top priority item. The town has begun to look into safety concerns, including safe patron movement in/around the boat ramp area and access to the beaches on both sides of the boat ramp. Signage, hi-lighted walkways, and new boardwalks are all being considered. Also, the committee felt the town should look into having a weekend attendant at the boat ramp. This person could help control trailer unloading, patron movement, and, generally, assist in all Third Beach / Navy operations.
- **Dinghy Kayak Rack-** Tim S. passed out pictures of a rack used in Bristol - It included several spaces for boats, kayaks. The committee felt this would be a very popular item and should be pursued. Tim S. will obtain specifications and estimated cost. Construction expected to be complete by 6/1/2012.
- **Review Third Beach closings-** Tom O reported that the town is involved with several on-going studies concerning the closings at Third Beach. Will report back to the BC as information becomes available.
- **Chain Link Fence- Second Beach,** Tim S. has sent out bids for repair /replacement of the parking lot chain link fence. All bids should be received by Dec 2011.
- **Handicap spaces- Third Beach-** The recreation dept will check to see how often the existing spaces..4.. are filled and report back to the BC- summer 2012.

- **Decals/ New Boats,** Tim S. will contact local sign companies concerning the cost of placing “Third Beach” and “Sachuest Beach” decals on the 2 dories purchased in 2011. Rian reported that hundreds of people use these boats as “photo ops” and this would be great publicity for the town.
- **Stairway- Rock.** The stairway at the Rock, which was washed away in the August hurricane, will be replaced in the spring.
- **Purgatory Road walkway.** Chris Semonelli is working with Rep. L. DePalma concerning the walkway and what state agency is responsible for improvement or new construction. The poor condition of the Purgatory Chasm area was also discussed. Updates as available.
- **Ragweed-** Rian reported that, in his opinion, Ragweed is a bigger threat to the dunes than the current invasive grass. It destroys the dune grass, but unlike the invasive grass, dies in the winter leaving the dunes unprotected. It has “taken over” most of the West end of the beach (Rock side) and is also very prevalent throughout the entire beach. Eradication is simple, but tedious. The Ragweed can be controlled, by an over the counter herbicide such as, Round-Up. This should be considered a top-priority 2012 project, due to its’ rapid spread.
- **Third Beach erosion-** the town will monitor the on-going beach erosion.

## **5. New Business/ Boat Ramp Recommendation , Town Council**

- At the Nov. 7th Town Council meeting, Rian presented the BC's boat ramp recommendation. He told the council that it took several months of meetings and compromises to come out with an agreement that would be approved, unanimously, by the BC and accepted by beach patrons. The town council agreed that it took a lot of hard work and thanked the BC for its time and effort. Several people in the audience applauded the BC's recommendation. Rian also told the town council that the ramp is breaking down and, although funding for costly renovation will not be available for several years, repairs are needed immediately. This would include general deck repair, as well as, adding Armor Flex to the existing ramp.

- Rian thanked John Ceglarski for his efforts in preparing the BC boat ramp recommendation for the town council. It was very professional and clearly written document.

**6. Meeting adjourned 6:06 pm**